The papers of Lewis Barber Larkin, a pioneer in fighting juvenile delinquency in the 1940s
and later an associate professor of education, were placed in the University Archives by Mrs.

Larkin was born in Schenectady, New York in 1901, retired from Wayne State University
in 1970 and died in 1976. He received his B.S. degree from Springfield College, Massachusetts.
his Master's in social work from the University of Michigan and his Ed. D from Wayne State
University. Larkin first joined Wayne as a lecturer in educational psychology in 1939. He
served as a part-time instructor from 1947-1951. He was made an assistant professor in 1951,
when he began teaching full-time, and an associate professor in 1964. At one point he was in
charge of all veteran and military counseling for the College of Education. When he retired,
Larkin was coordinator for the Inner- Departmental Undergraduate Instructional Program in the
College of Education. He was awarded the rank of Associate Professor Emeritus in August of
1970.

During his career, Larkin was treasurer of the American Association of Social Workers,
vice chairman of the American Association of Group Workers, held various offices with the
Boys Work Council of Metropolitan Detroit and was president of Alpha Omega, Phi Delta
Kappa. In 1959 Wayne's chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa, the national leadership honor society
for men, gave Larkin the distinguished faculty advisor's award.

Before joining Wayne full time in 1951, Lewis Larkin had worked with Detroit youth and
community groups for over twenty years. He was the secretary of the downtown branch of the
YMCA (1929-1938), a youth counselor for the Detroit Council for Youth Services (1939-1940),
the director of youth activities for the Brightmoor Community Center (1941-1943) and the
Executive Secretary for the Dearborn War Chest Campaign (1942, 1943). Larkin worked with
the Council of Social Agencies from 1940 to 1951 and gained recognition for his activities with
juvenile delinquents. On loan from the Council, he served as director of the experimental
Western Area Project (1940-1942) and as community coordinator for the Davison Area Project
and the Northern Area (1943-1951). Larkin pioneered the formation of the Commission on
Children and Youth, the Detroit Police Department Youth Bureau and the Detroit Metropolitan
Youth Council.

The papers of Lewis B. Larkin reflect his pioneering efforts with juvenile delinquents
during the late 1930s and 1940s and his activities with and encouragement of neighborhood
organizations in the Western, Davison and Northern areas. To some extent, they give an
overview of both Detroit and national youth problems and the attempt to cope with these
problems. To a lesser degree, they show Larkin's involvement with professional organizations.
Larkin recorded his visits and activities with neighborhood groups and individuals in a narrative
or log format. Because of these narratives, the Larkin Collection often reflects attitudes on race,
religion, ethnic groups, the "generation gap," juvenile delinquency and the community or
neighborhood in general.
Important subjects covered in the collection are:
(In general, all of the subjects listed below fall within the late 1930s and/or 1940s time period)

Area work
Brightmoor Community Center
Churches
Community councils
Community organization
Community service organizations and agencies
Council of Social Agencies
Davison Area Project and Northern Area
Detroit race riot, 1943
District Councils
Industrial Preparatory
Juvenile delinquency
Mayor's Advisory Committee on Youth Problems
Race relations
Social recreation work principles and procedures
Western Area Project
Women's clubs
World War II servicemen's correspondence
YMCA
Youth clubs (canteens)
Contents

17 manuscript boxes

Series I: Youth Problems and Community Work, 1922-1970

Subseries I: Professional and Miscellaneous, 1922-1970; Boxes 1-5
Records and publications relating to professional organizations, community and 1945.

Subseries II: Western Area Project, 1937-1942, Boxes 6-10
Larkin's notebooks containing correspondence, minutes, reports and flyers documenting the daily activities of the Western Area Project. Also included are subject files relating to the project and Larkin's thesis on the project.

Subseries III: Area Work, 1938-1951, Boxes 11-17
Files relating to area work in metropolitan Detroit, in general, and the Davison Area Project and Northern Area, in particular. They include community agencies and groups concerned with youth; the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Youth Problems; canteens or youth clubs; employment programs; church involvement; ethnic, race and population data; a correspondence file on area work activities and Larkin's correspondence with "his boys" in service during World War II.

Mrs. Alice Larkin undertook the laborious task of listing and/or describing most items in her husband's files before the material was transferred to the University Archives. The inventory is found at the end of the guide. Mrs. Larkin's folder numbers are in parentheses after folder titles in the guide. For example, the number (65) following the folder entitled "Duck Inn Canteen, 1946-1948," refers to folder 65 of Mrs. Larkin's inventory, in which a list and/or description of this material is found.

Subseries I
Professional and Miscellaneous, 1922-1970
Boxes 1-5

Correspondence, minutes, reports, publications, clippings and addresses mainly for the period 1940-1945. In general, the files broadly reflect various social work philosophies, concepts and procedures used to organize communities to combat the problems of juvenile delinquency during the 1940s. The files pertain to professional organizations, community and youth programs throughout the country, juvenile delinquency, juvenile laws, community and district councils, community organization and the YMCA. Of particular interest is a letter found in the "Communists" folder which relates to the Detroit race riot of 1943. The files are basically arranged in alphabetical order with the exception of Larkin's talks and personal material. Those files are found at the beginning of the subseries.

Box 1

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3-5. -Talks, n.d., 1939, 1943-1950 (38, 163)
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10. Articles
11. Bibliographies and Book Lists (168)
12. Bibliographies on Human Growth and Development, 1940 (168)
13. Bibliographies on Temperance Education, 1940 (168)
14. The Board Members of a Family Agency, Family Welfare Association of America, 1944
16. Boys' Work Council, 1940, 1942, 1943, 1946 (164)
18. A Call to Action for Community Development and National Defense, Feb., 1941 (51)
19. Case Record on Ravenna, Ohio, Spt., 1942
20. Central Community Center and Miscellaneous-Group Work Narrative, n.d., 1938-1939 (41)
21. Chain Stores-Pro and Con, Institute for Consumer Education, 1940
22. Chicago Area Project-Memorandum to Board of Directors, Jan. 10, 1944 (8)

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2. Citizenship Education Activities Lay Organizations in Michigan, Adult Education Laboratory, 1944 (11)
3. The City as a Community, n.d.
4. Clippings-Miscellaneous
5. Communists, 1943 (47)
6. Community Council for Delinquency Control, National Exchange Club, 1945
7. Community Council Primer, Nov., 1949
8. Community Directory, University of Michigan Adult Education Program, 1944
9. District Councils-Past, Present and Future, 1939 (104)
20. Community Organization, National Conference of Social Work, 1939, 1940 (76, 106)
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8. A Cooperative Program of Citizenship Education, State of Michigan, 1944
9. Dearborn War Chest Campaign, Dec., 1942 (125)
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12. Detroit and Wayne County Community Survey, Feb. - April, 1948 (11)
13. Detroit Association for the Study of Group Work, 1938, 1940
15. Detroit Commission for Study of Group Work Records-Experiment in Narrative Group Records, 1938 (11)
16. Detroit Regional Conference of Social Work-New Outlook for Group Work, 1938 (169)
17. Detroit Teenagers Go to Town, 1945
18. Detroit...Today and Tomorrow, Citizens' Housing and Planning Councils, 1946-1947
19. Deviates and Miscellaneous (39)
20. Dodge Community House, Hamtramck, 1956, 1957 (169)
21. Drifting Youth in Ann Arbor, 1934
22. Education as a Community Function, 1934
23. Facing the Problems of Youth, National Youth Administration, 1936
24. Facts About Unemployment, 1940; Depression Pioneers, 1939
25. Facts About Your Job as a Voting Citizen, 1940
26. Franklin Attendance Center, n.d., 1941, 1942 (98)
28. Getting People and Services Together .... Florence Poole, n.d. (11)
29. Governor's Conference on Children and Youth-Summary of Proceedings, 1948
30. Health Education Programs in Detroit, May, 1942
31. How Management Can Integrate Negroes in War Industries, 1942

Box 4

1. How the Community Can Best Serve Its Youth, Hamtramck Federation of Teachers, 1944 (35)
2. Industrial Land Use in the Detroit Region, Regional Planning Commission, 1952
5. Juvenile Delinquency
6. Juvenile Delinquency-Clippings (51)
7. Juvenile Delinquency, Notes on a Conference for Measuring-Detroit Bureau of Governmental Research, 1940
10. The Juvenile Home: Genesse County (Flint) Michigan, National Probation Association, 1945
12. Juvenile Laws and Services: Proposed Revisions and Additions, Michigan, 1944
13. The Latchstring-Trips to Agencies of the Detroit Community Fund, 1937
17. Miscellaneous
18. Modern Trends ... Our Towns and Cities Tomorrow, University of Michigan Broadcasting, March 30, 1940
19. Moline (Illinois) Plan, 1943 (90)
20. Northeastern High School-Job Upgrading Program, 1950
21. Planned Parenthood
22. Poe-Jefferson Neighborhood Council, 1948, 1949 (42)
23. Police Precincts: How Many are Necessary..., Detroit Governmental Research, 1945
24. Program Planning, Michigan Education Association, 1936
25. Public or Private Agencies Concerned with Group Work or Recreation, 1942
26. Publicity, n.d. (167)
27. Recreational Resources in Detroit, Selected Suggestions, Feb., 1945 (141)
28. Rooms of Their Own, Survey of 28 New York City Social Clubs, June, 1939 (11)
29. San Francisco Parental School, Nov., 1944 (25)
30. School and the Juvenile Delinquent-Wayne University Educational Psychology, c.late 1940s (7)

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2. Story of Ruth-Radio Script, 1949 (91)
3. Study of Agency Interrelationships, 1931 (87)
5. Town Meeting of Youth, American Youth Congress, 1941
6. Volunteers of America, Nov., 1940 (117)
7. Wayne County 1946 Expenditures for Health and Welfare Services, 1948 (11)
8. Wayne County Youth Guidance Committee-Progress Report, Oct., 1944
9. Wayne University Education 3015-Ideas, Miscellaneous (8)
10. Workers' Education Service Program, University of MichiganControversary, 1948 (37)
11. WPA Adult Education Program, New York City, n.d. (165)
12. Wyandotte Youth and Study Committee, 1952-1953 (1)
13. YMCA - Outline of Its History, 1918
14. -Third General Assembly of Workers with Boys, 1925
18. -Study of Expirations and Cancelations of Boys' Division, 1934-1935
20. -Fifth North America Assembly of Workers with Boys, 1937
21. -The Board of Directors of a YMCA, 1945
22. -Miscellaneous
23. Youth and Agency Programs, n.d. (131)
24. Youth Calling all Citizens, 1935
25. Youth Center Manual, National Exchange Club, 1945
26. Youth Council-General
27. Youth in Defense and Postdefense Periods, Oct., 1941
Subseries II
Western Area Project, 1937-1942
Boxes 6-10

This subseries mainly consists of material kept in notebooks which documents the daily activities of the Western Area Project. The notebooks include correspondence, minutes, reports, flyers and narratives filed in chronological order. Larkin recorded his visits and activities with groups and individuals in a narrative or log format. These narratives often reflect attitudes on race, religion, ethnic groups, the "generation gap," juvenile delinquency and the community or neighborhood in general. Alphabetically arranged subject files follow the notebooks. Larkin's thesis on the Western Area Project precedes the notebooks.

Larkin's notebooks were numbered 1-13 and 2a-2e and usually had inclusive dates on them. In general, notebooks 2a-2e had duplicates of the material found in notebooks 1-13. The duplicates were discarded, leaving a relatively small amount of material retained in notebooks 2a-2e. Mrs. Larkin identified all notebooks by content date rather than number. Her dates usually coincide with those found on the notebooks and, consequently, found in the guide. Mrs. Larkin's notebook descriptions are at the end of her inventory.

Western Area Project

The Western Area Project began July 1, 1940 and continued through August, 1942 with activities concentrated in the area bounded by Cass on the East, Vernor on the South, Twelfth on the West and Holden on the North. Its purpose was to discover the recreational, social and educational needs of the residents of the neighborhood and to meet those needs through existing resources. It operated under a joint committee of representatives of the Western District Council and the Central Committee for District Councils. The Council of Social Agencies provided the budget for project activities. The Project was originally set up for a sixth month period but the Committee asked to have it continued. The director (Larkin) had to be taken out of the area in September, 1942 to work on the War Chest Campaign. He returned in the latter part of December, but active work was not resumed. Larkin maintained slight contact with the neighborhood residents, but continued his work with the committees of the District Council until March, 1943. During this time the Commissioner of Police had heard of the Western Area Project and requested that Larkin be loaned to another area where more urgent youth problems were apparent. It was felt that the experimental stage of the Project was ended and that the Western District Council could carry on the work that had been started in developing a community program. Therefore, the Project Committee recommended that the Project be officially suspended and that the director be loaned to work in another area of the city.

Box 6

1. Larkin Thesis-The Western Area Project of Downtown Detroit, 1944
2. -Original Manuscript of Chapter VII (10)
3. -Carbon Draft of Chapter VII (10)
4-5. Western Area Project Notebook 1, June-Aug., 1940
6-7. -Notebook 2, Sept.-Oct. 31, 1940
8-12. -Notebook 3, Nov. 1-Dec. 31, 1940
13-14. -Notebook 4, Jan.-Feb. 28, 1941

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1-3. Western Area Project Notebook 4, Jan.-Feb. 28, 1941
4-9. -Notebook 5, March 3-April 30, 1941
10-14. -Notebook 6, May 1-June 30, 1941
15-19. -Notebook 7, July-August 31, 1941
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1-5. Western Area Project Notebook 9, Nov.-Dec. 29, 1941
6-10. -Notebook 10, Jan. 2-Feb. 27, 1942
11-14. -Notebook 11, March 3-April 30, 1942
15-18. -Notebook 12, May 2-July 6, 1942

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1-3. Western Area Project Notebook 13, July 1, 1942-Jan. 12, 1943
4-6. -Notebook 2a, July 9-Dec. 31, 1940
7-8. -Notebook 2b, Jan.-May 29, 1941
9-10. -Notebook 2c, June 2-Sept. 30, 1941
11. -Notebook 2e, Jan. 5-March 15, 1942
12. Western Area Project-Outline of Activities, 1940, 1941 (113)
17. -Reports, 1941 (32, 56)
18. -Summer Programs, 1941 (114, 124)
19. -Evaluation, 1941 (118)
20-21. -Reports, 1942, 1943 (49, 128)
22-23. -Bulletin, Oct., 1940-1941 (15)

Box 10

1. Western Area Project-Appraisal of Bulletin, 1941 (119)
2. -Bulletin, 1942 (15, 164)
3. Population Data By Census Tracts, 1937, 1940 (111)
4. Agencies and Churches in the Western District, n.d. (32)
5. Responsibility of the Church in the Neighborhood, n.d. (32)
7. Community-Home Unity Movement, 1939 (110)
9. Housing, n.d., 1942 (126)
15. Miscellaneous, 1939 (109)
17. Myrtle Street Group, n.d., 1939, 1940 (100)
18. Questionnaire and Miscellaneous, n.d., 1941 (115)
19-22. Sixth and Stimson Street Gang Notebook, Sept. 25, 1939-June 19, 1940
23. The Stags-History and Constitution, c.1942 (164)
24-26. Tiawana Club, 1939-May, 1940 (102)
27. Western District Council, c. 1942
28-29. Women's Community Club, n.d., 1940, 1941 (120, 121)
30. Log, 1941, 1942 (120)
Correspondence, minutes, reports, articles, flyers and Larkin's narratives relating to metropolitan Detroit area work, in general, and the Davison Area Project and Northern Area, in particular. Many of Larkin's visits and activities with groups or individuals are recorded in a narrative or log format. These narratives often reflect attitudes on race, religion, ethnic groups, the "generation gap," juvenile delinquency, and the community or neighborhood in general. The files include material on community agencies and groups concerned with youth; the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Youth Problems; canteens or youth clubs; employment programs; housing; recreation; church involvement; and ethnic, race and population data. There are also correspondence files on area work activities.

During World War II Larkin corresponded with "his boys" in service. These were the youth he had worked with in the Davison Area Project, etc. Although much of the correspondence is personal, there are some descriptions of foreign countries and attitudes toward the war. After the 1943 Detroit riot, Larkin raised the issue of the riot and future race relations. Some of the servicemen responded with their views.

The arrangement of the subseries is: area work, boxes 11-13; Davison Area Project and Northern Area, boxes 13-17; correspondence files and correspondence with boys in service, box 17.

Area Work

In 1942 the Police Commissioner and representatives of youth serving agencies worked out a plan whereby Larkin, the first area worker in Detroit, would be transferred to a trouble area. It was recognized that the effectiveness of the work would depend to a large extent upon the degree of cooperation among the agencies. The Commissioner requested that Mayor Jeffries appoint a committee which would give status to cooperation on a neighborhood basis, and the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Youth Problems was formed in 1943. Initially, the recommendation was made that methods and procedures would be tested in one area, the Davison Area, and that other areas would be selected when experience demonstrated the validity of the activities in the Davison Area. The riots in June 1943 and the publicity on the problems of juvenile delinquency accelerated the extension of this experimental program into six other areas. Staff was loaned to the Council of Social Agencies by the Board of Education, Police Department, Recreation Department and Department of Welfare. They were known as "area workers."

The major function of the Mayor's Committee was the coordination of all those services which dealt with problems of youth in the Detroit community. The Area Committee's function was to serve the program of the area workers and to be the expert group to rule on policies and practices. Individual members served as consultants to the area workers. They considered the following problems: wider use of volunteers by agencies; decentralization of case work, group work and counseling services; and discrimination and race relations. The aim and purpose of the area worker was to provide leadership within a certain designated area to help leaders, groups and agencies develop an understanding of the local situation affecting the welfare of youth; discover new resources for better service of the needs of youth in the area; and the organization and revitalization of a community council in areas where none was operating.
In December of 1944 the Mayor's Committee asked the Council of Social Agencies to accept supervision of the Area Programs. During 1946 a recommendation was made that the Mayor's Committee be reorganized. This resulted in the organization of the Detroit Youth Committee. The Board of Directors of the Council of Social Agencies appointed a committee in November 1946 to study the Detroit Area Program and make recommendations for the future conduct of the program. The Study Committee recommended, among other things, that the Area Program and District Council program were in effect the same thing; that the expression "Community Council" be employed rather than "District Council"; and that the Area Committee as then constituted be discontinued.

**Davison Area Project**

In March, 1943 Larkin was assigned to the Davison Area to discover the problems affecting boys' gangs. The assignment was broadened to include the problems of the whole area with the overall purpose of assisting residents and agencies to work together for their common welfare in the neighborhood. At first, Larkin promoted youth activities through the already established programs in the area. By 1945 probably the largest block of his time was given to youth groups wanting teenage canteens. In the main, Larkin used the canteen groups as tools to reach the organizations, schools, agencies and adults. While assisting youth to have a canteen, pressure was continuously exerted to have adult groups sponsor these youth groups and to develop programs for themselves.

**Box 11**

1. Mayor's Advisory Committee on Youth Problems, n.d., 1943, 1944,1946 (79)
2. -Minutes Nov., 1943-Nov., 1944 (79)
   -Report, Detroit Serves Its Youth, 1945 (160)
5. -Minutes, 1943, 1944, 1947 (59)
6. Mayor's Interracial Committee-Annual Report and Leaflets, 1948, 1949
7. Metropolitan Detroit Youth Council, n.d., 1940-1942 (127)
8. Detroit Youth Committee-Forum on Youth, June, 1949 (30)
11. -Weekly General Letter, Feb.-April, 1939 (78)
13. -Proposed Articles of Incorporation and By-Law Changes, Nov., 1945 (169)
14-15. -Board of Directors Minutes, 1941, 1946-1948 (140)
16-18. Staff Advisory Committee, 1947-1950 (83, 93)
19. Staff Advisory Committee and Records, Jan. 31, 1950 (14)
21. The Area Worker and the Community-Description of the Detroit Area Project, Aug., 1944 (11)

**Box 12**

1-8. Area Workers-Minutes, Nov., 1943-March, 1950 (58, 61, 84)
9-10. -Monthly Reports, Davison Project, 1944, 1945 (57, 63)
11-13. -Monthly Reports, 1946-March, 1949 (64, 75)
14. -Annual Reports, Davison Project, 1944, 1945 (63)
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4. Community Council Staff-Vi Sieder's Visit, 1949 (150)
5-6. Community Council Staff-Minutes, 1950, 1951 (157, 159)
17. Social Structure of Census Tract 571-Sociology Term Paper, n.d. (164)
21. Duck Inn Canteen-Constition (66)
22. Duck Inn Canteen, n.d., 1945 (65)

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1-3. Duck Inn Canteen, 1946-1948 (65)
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17. -n.d., 1948 (134, 139)
18. Detroit Police Department, n.d., 1944, 1946, 1947 (7)
20. -Evaluation of Records of 11th Precinct Juvenile Officers, Sept., 1944 (6)
21. Detroit Social Agencies and Their War Programs
22. East Davison Northern Youth Club, n.d., 1939, 1940 (82)
23. East Side Youth Council-Constiutution, Minutes, 1938-1940 (12)
24. -Correspondence, Nov., 1939-May, 1940 (12)
27. Fairgrounds Neighborhood Club, 1950 (158)
29.-34. Industrial Preparatory, n.d., 1948-1951 (54, 55)

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4-5. Knudson Playground, June, 1949-1950 (9, 95),
8. Mosley Homes, 1944, 1945 (21, 25)
14-17. Nolan Area Adult and Youth Advisory Committees, n.d., 1944-1946 (72)
18. Nolan Community Leadership Conference, 1949 (28)
19. North Detroit Community Youth Council, 1940 (110)
20. North Detroit Exchange Club- Constitution and By-Laws (.135)
26. Northern Community Council Area Churches, 1951 (14)
27. Northern Youth Council, n.d., 1939, 1944, 1945 (26, 80)
29. Parent Youth Conference, 1947 (71)
30. Problem Check List Questionnaire, n.d. (36)
32. Schoolcraft Branch Library (147)
33-34. State Fair Community Club, 1948, 1949 (95)

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1. Valentine Homes, n.d. (9)
2. Veterans' Services, 1945, 1946 (141)
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6. Youth Councils, n.d., 1938, 1940 (47, 107)
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15-21. Correspondence, 1948-Jan., 1950 (20)
22. Correspondence, March-July, 1950 (13, 20)
23-28. Correspondence-Boys In Service